

MARVEL

152

RATED T+

COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA

VENOM

THE LAND BEFORE CRIME

CONTINUES!



YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE BEEN REUNITED, BUT BOTH OF THEM HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEY LAST WERE TOGETHER. VENOM STILL WANTS TO BE A HERO, BUT HAS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN ITS MORE VIOLENT IMPULSES. IT HAS EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO ATTACK PEOPLE IT PERCEIVES AS A THREAT WHILE EDDIE HAS BEEN SLEEPING.

WHEN EDDIE OVERHEARD ABOUT A SYMBIOTE-LIKE MONSTER ATTACK, HIS INVESTIGATION LED HIM TO THE SEWERS, WHERE HE FOUGHT A DINOSAUR BRANDED WITH THE LOGO FOR ALCHEMAX. USING THIS DISCOVERY AS LEVERAGE, EDDIE APPEALED TO LIZ ALLAN, ALCHEMAX'S C.E.O., AND OFFERED TO BRING STEGRON AND HIS EXPERIMENTS BACK TO THE COMPANY IN EXCHANGE FOR A CURE FOR HIS AILING SYMBIOTE.

THE LAND BEFORE CRIME PART TWO

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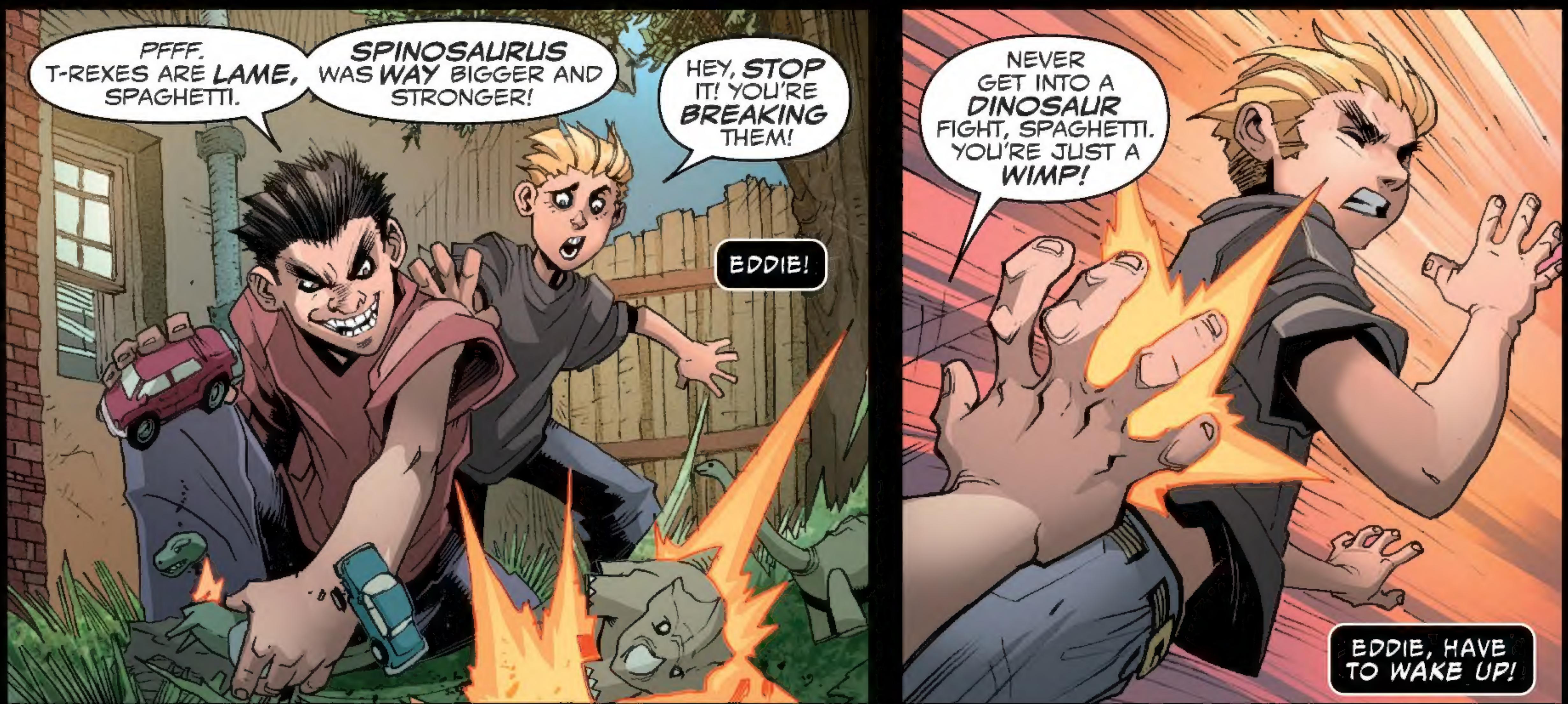
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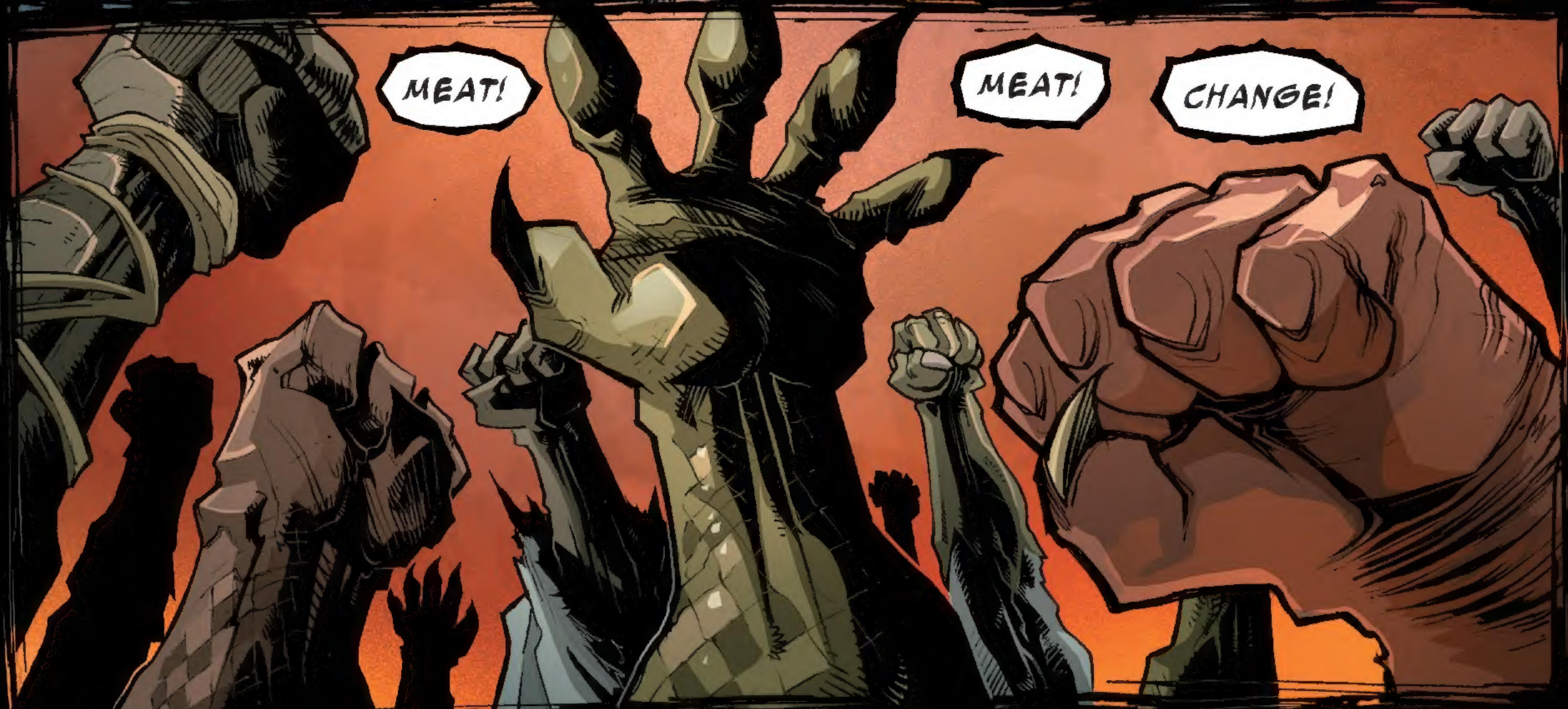
YEARS AGO...



NOW.

BIG FIGHT WITH
DINOSAURS!





AH, MY FOOLISH, INDECISIVE CHILDREN. WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITHOUT STEGRON AS YOUR GOD?

BRING HIM TO MY FEET.

YOU'RE NOT JUST A MAN...YOU HAVE SOME CREATURE ATTACHED TO YOU.

IT REEK'S OF THE PRIMORDIAL.

YOU MUST BE STEGRON.

LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO THESE PEOPLE-- YOU'VE TURNED THEM INTO MONSTERS!

THESE AREN'T MONSTERS, MAMMAL.

THEY ARE MY FOLLOWERS. MY CHILDREN.

THESE WERE
MISERABLE WRETCHES--
MEN, WOMEN, DOGS, RATS--
IGNORED BY YOUR
SOCIETY, HOMELESS
AND SCORNED.

BUT I HAVE
CHANGED THEM,
SAVED THEM, AND IN
DINOSAUR SOCIETY,
ALL ARE EQUAL!

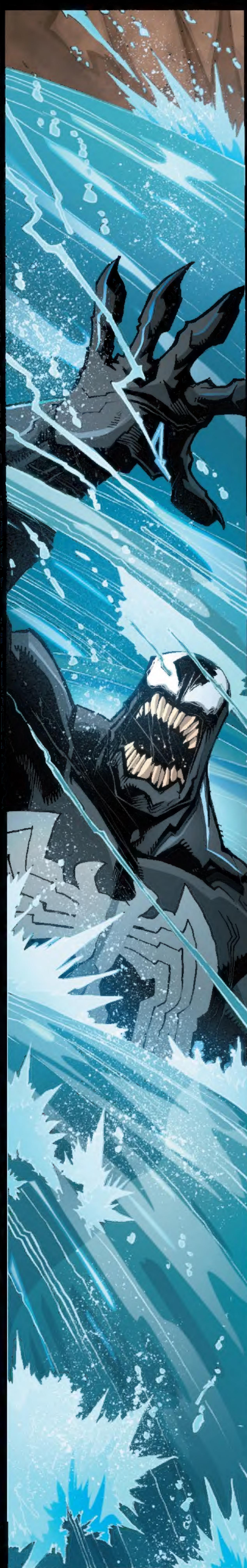
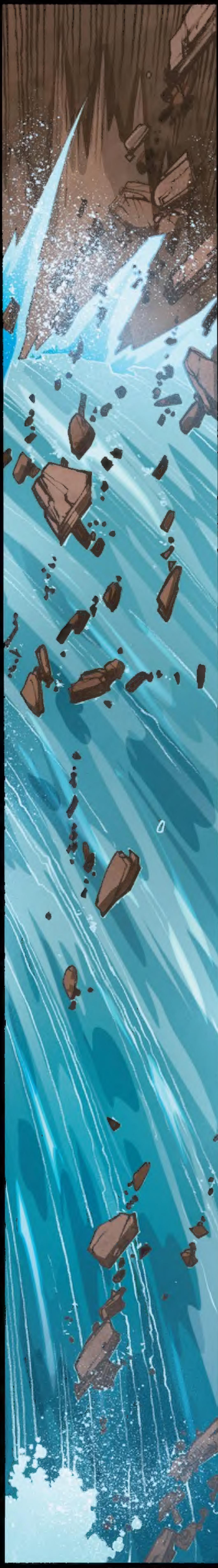
EXCEPT
YOU, WHO
GETS TO BE
THEIR GOD.

YOUR GOD
TOO, WHEN THE
CHANGE IS UPON
YOU.

I'M
INTERESTED
TO SEE WHAT IT
WILL DO TO YOUR
PASSENGER.

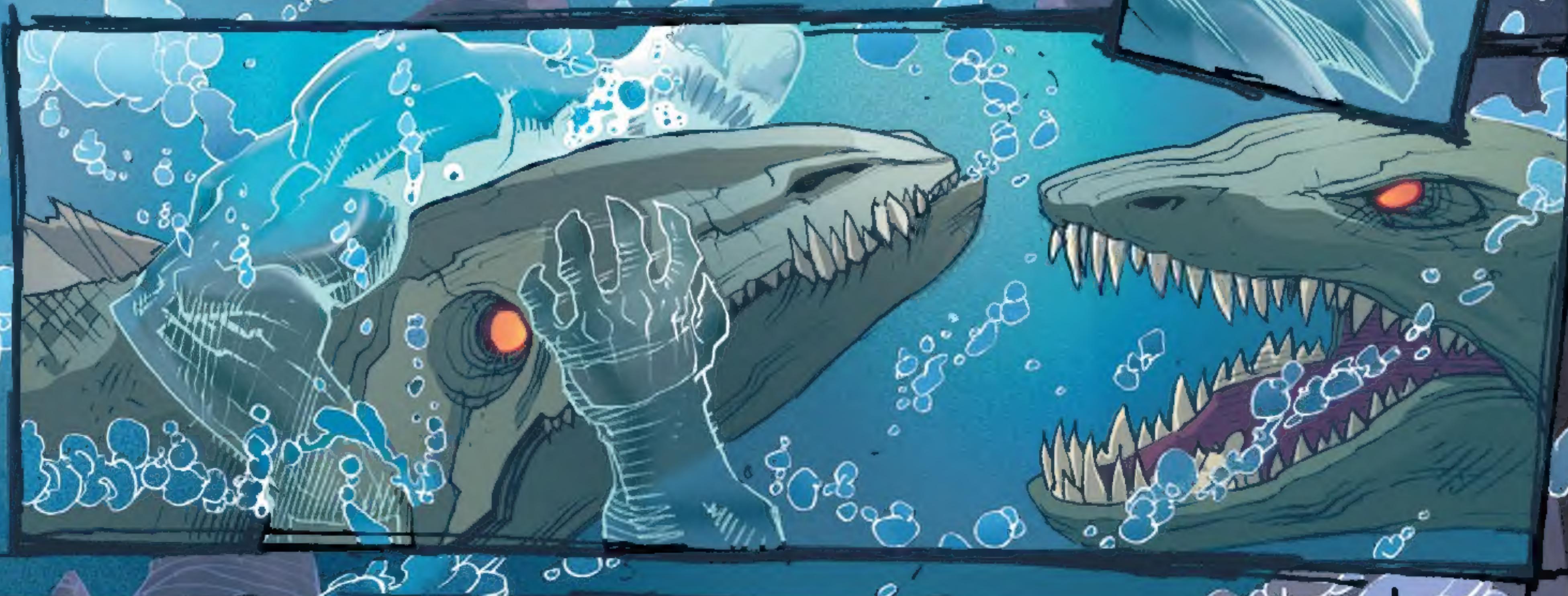
WE'LL
KNOW SOON
ENOUGH.





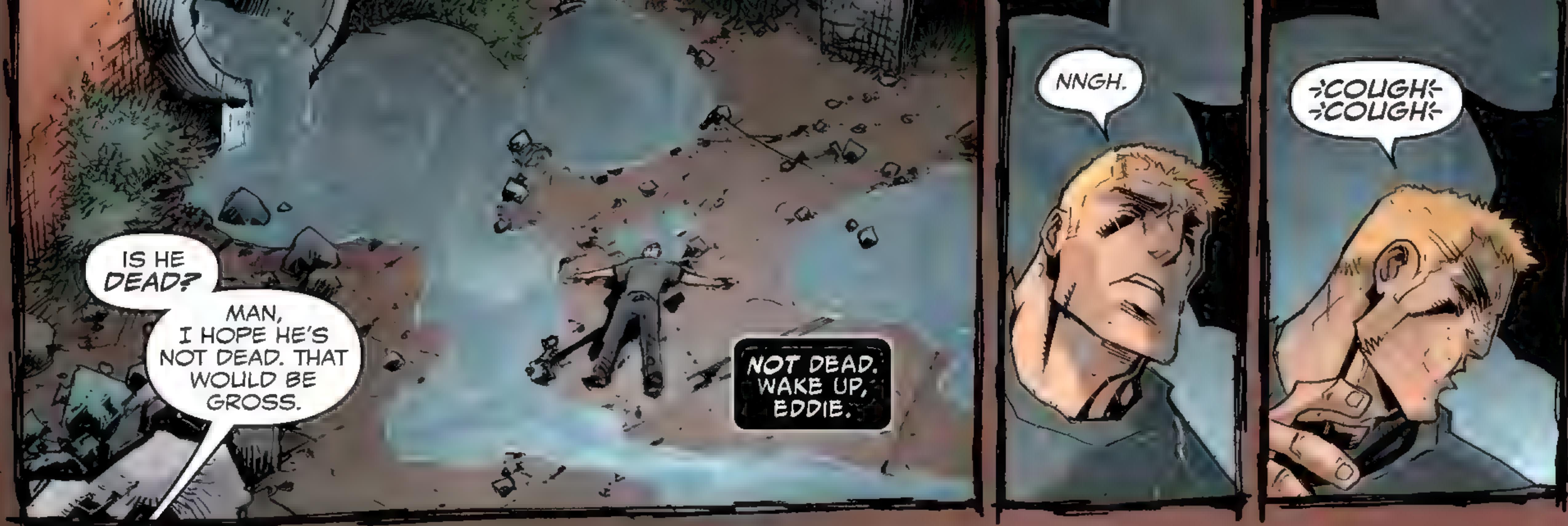


HERE THEY
COME, EDDIE!



EDDIE,
LOOK OUT!

EDDIE,
BEH--







LATER...

THINGS IN THE SEWERS ARE WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT, LIZ.

HOW MUCH OF STEGRON'S FORMULA DID YOU REPRODUCE?

I DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION. WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

BECAUSE HE'S LIVING IN THE ABANDONED TUNNELS UNDER THE HUDSON RIVER AND HE'S GOT A WHOLE \$%#^# CIVILIZATION DOWN THERE.

HE'S BEEN SUBJECTING DOGS AND FISH AND HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TO THAT FORMULA. EVEN THE HOMELESS THAT HAD BEEN LIVING IN THOSE TUNNELS. HE'S TREATING IT LIKE A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY.

THIS... IS NOT WHAT I NEEDED TODAY.

HEY, I GET IT. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU FIND OUT YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING A CULT OF DINOSAUR MEN.

THIS MAY BE TOO BIG FOR US TO HANDLE, AFTER ALL.

MAYBE NOT. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN HARD AT WORK.

MY STAFF HAS BEEN RESEARCHING THE SAMPLE OF YOUR SYMBIOTE YOU LEFT US...

"...AND THEY
SEEM TO HAVE
MADE SOME
PROGRESS."

MR. BROCK, OUR UNDERSTANDING
OF THE PHYSIOLOGY OF YOUR...
"PASSENGER" IS IMPERFECT.
BUT IT SEEMS YOUR INSTINCTS
ARE CORRECT. THERE IS
SOMETHING
WRONG.

WH...WHAT
DID THIS TO
US?

NO! CAN'T BE
TRUE, EDDIE!
CAN'T BE TRUE!

THE ALIEN IS
IN A SLOWLY ADVANCING
PROCESS OF TOXIC SHOCK.
IT'S GRADUALLY LOSING PHYSICAL
COMPOSITION--SEEPING OUT OF YOUR
PORES, LIKELY MORESO WHILE
YOU SLEEP--IT'S PROBABLE
THAT IT'S LOSING MENTAL
FACULTIES AS WELL.

THAT'S THE
MOST REMARKABLE
PART. IT SEEMS YOUR
OWN BODY IS
DOING THIS.

WE FOUND
TRACE ELEMENTS OF
EXOTIC COMPOUNDS IN YOUR
BLOODSTREAM THAT BEAR
STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO
THE COCKTAILS DEVELOPED BY
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO
SUPPRESS SYMBIOTE
EXPRESSION.

FBI DID THIS TO US, EDDIE.

GAVE YOU DRUGS WHILE WE
WERE BONDED WITH OTHERS.

KNOW ABOUT TOXIN, EDDIE.

OUR THEORY
IS THAT YOU WERE
INOCULATED WITH THESE
CHEMICALS SO OFTEN WHEN
YOU WORKED FOR THE FBI THAT
YOUR BODY'S METABOLISM WAS
FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED
TO BE inhospitable TO
THESE LIFE-FORMS.

IT
REALLY IS AN
INCREDIBLE EPIGENETIC
DEVELOPMENT,
AND--

I'M...AH...
NOT GREAT WITH
READING FACIAL
EXPRESSIONS.

THIS...
IS PROBABLY
UPSETTING.

NO!

YOU'RE LYING TO USSSS!

IF... IF WE HAD ACCESS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DATA ON SYMBIOTES, WE COULD GIVE YOU A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS, BUT--BUT--

EDDIE! THAT'S ENOUGH.

IF YOU KILL HIM, HE CAN'T SAVE YOUR LIFE!

I'M LISTENING.

STEVEN WAS ABLE TO SYNTHESIZE THIS. WE THINK IT'S THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A CURE.

IT SHOULD BALANCE OUT YOUR METABOLISM, STOP IT FROM ATTACKING THE Symbiote AND ALLOW YOUR BODY TO HEAL.

THAT, OR IT'LL MELT YOUR INSIDES.

IT SOMEHOW SEEMED IN EVERYONE'S BEST INTEREST THAT YOU NOT TURN INTO A DEGENERATING, OUT-OF-CONTROL PSYCHOTIC.

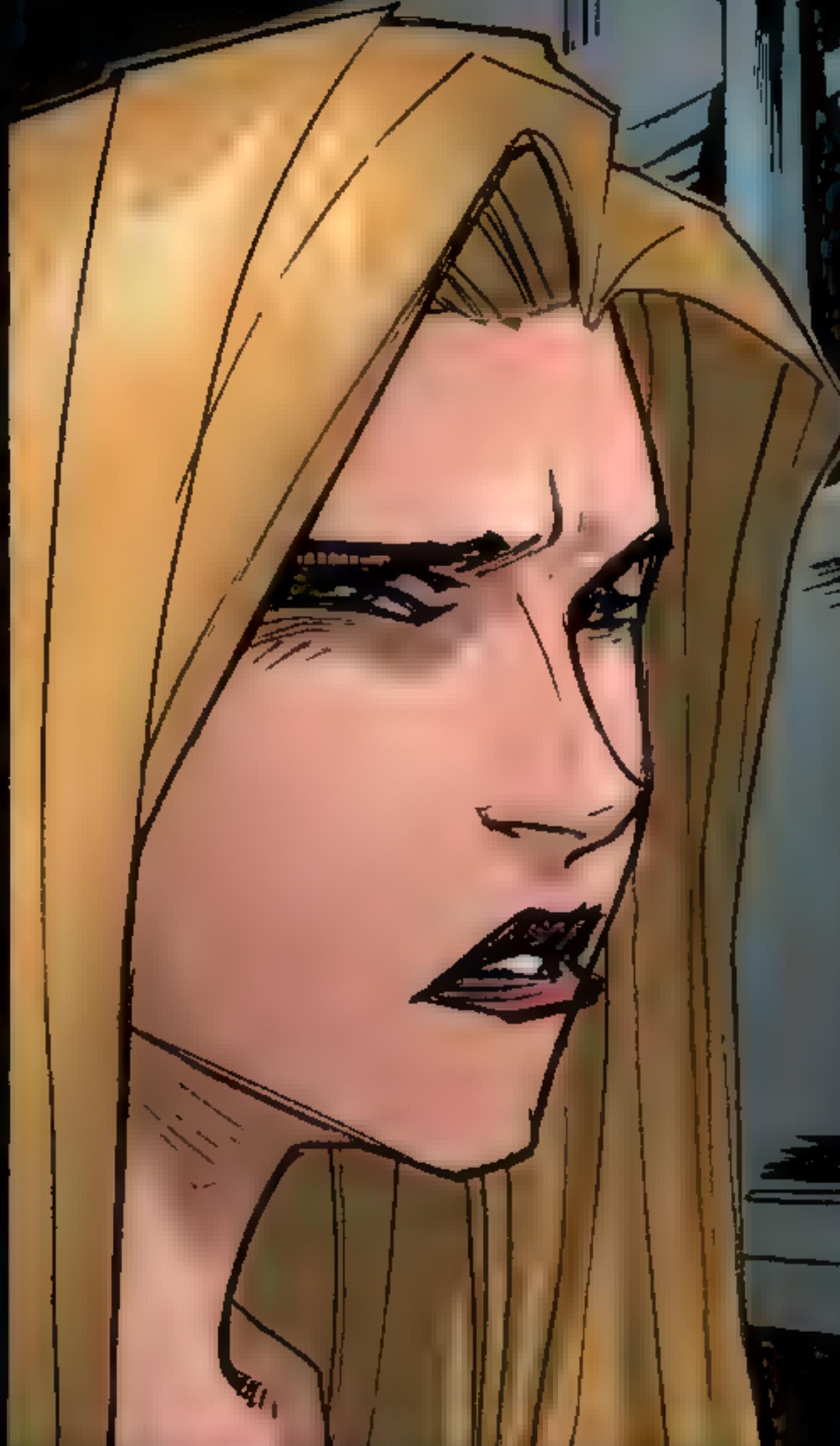
YOU MADE THIS... FOR US?

TREATMENT ISN'T PERMANENT. YOU'LL HAVE TO REAPPLY EVERY 36 TO 48 HOURS.

YOU'LL GIVE ME A SUPPLY TO TAKE HOME?

WE WILL...

...AFTER YOU BRING IN STEGRON.



YOU WOULD
HOLD A LIFE-
SAVING MEDICINE
HOSTAGE
FROM US?

DON'T BE
THAT WAY. WE HAVE AN
ARRANGEMENT.

BESIDES,
I ASSUME YOU
WANT TO CONFIRM
THAT IT WORKS BEFORE
I SYNTHESIZE MORE.
WHAT ELSE ARE YOU
DOING UNTIL
THEN?

HOW ABOUT
"NOT GOING TO
WAR WITH AN ARMY
OF DINOSAUR
MONSTERS."

PLEASE.
"ARMY," STEGRON
HAS SOME KIND OF
PSIONIC CONTROL
OVER CERTAIN STRUCTURES
OF SAURIAN
BRAINS.

ONCE YOU
NEUTRALIZE HIM,
WHATEVER "LOYALTY"
THEY SHOW HIM
WILL VANISH.

HE CAN
CONTROL THE MINDS OF
DINOSAURS?

DON'T ACT
LIKE THAT'S THE
DUMBEST THING YOU'VE
EVER HEARD. YOU'RE IN A
CREEPY RELATIONSHIP
WITH AN ALIEN THAT
LIVES IN YOUR
STOMACH.

SHE'S RIGHT, EDDIE.
TAKE MEDICINE,
SAVE OUR LIFE.

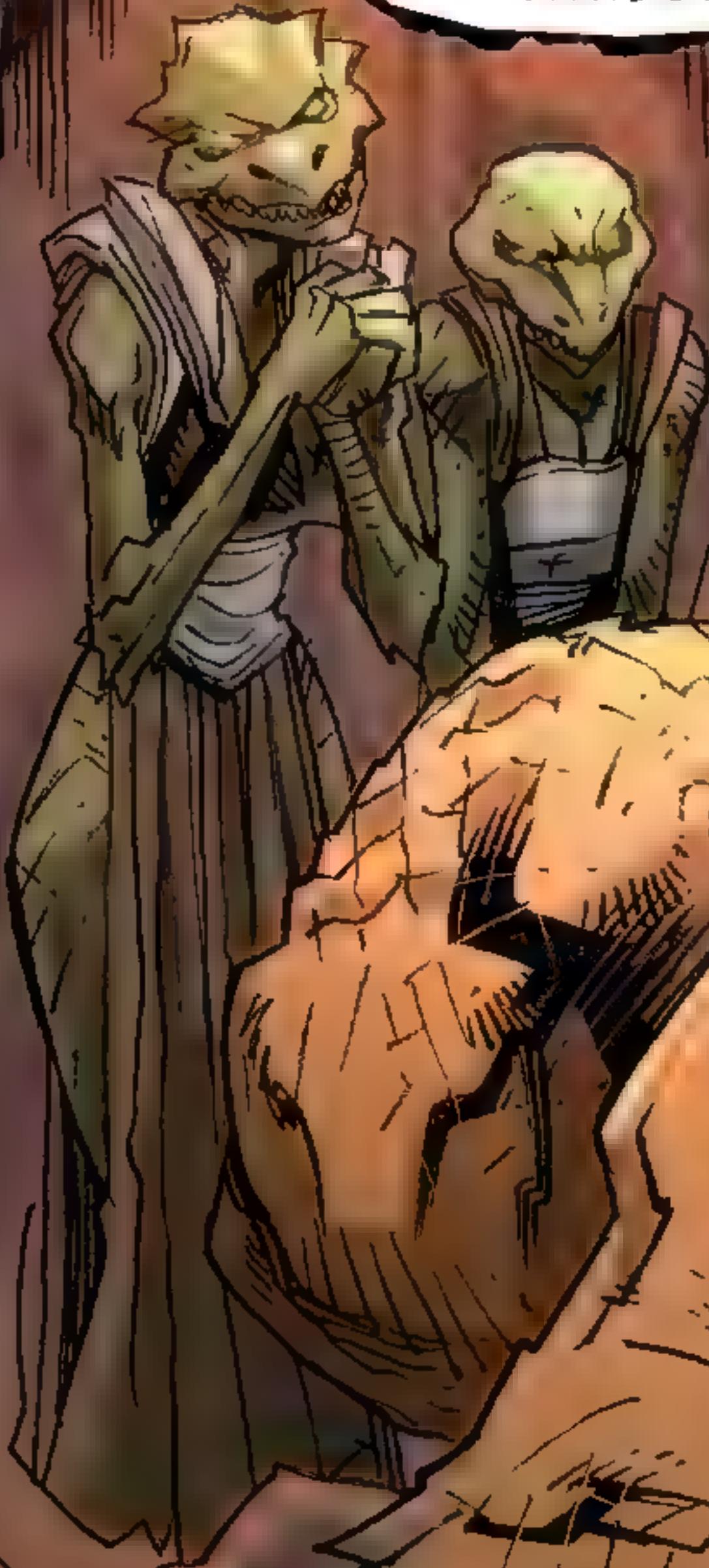
FIGHT STEGRON,
SAVE INNOCENTS.

FINE.
BUT I'M GOING
ARMED THIS
TIME.

LATER...

MY
BRIDES, COME AND
WITNESS!

YOU SEE
THIS FILTHY, REEKING
CREATURE? THE FUR BRISTLING
FROM ITS TENDER FLESH?
THE AWFUL STINK OF ITS
HOT BLOOD?



WE OFFER
HIM THE BLESSING
OF THE WATER OF LIFE
THAT HE MIGHT BE
CHANGED...

HEAR THEM!
THE BIRTH CRIES
OF A CHILD FOR A NEW
AND GLORIOUS
AGE!

YOU
SHOULDN'T BE
HERE.

MEEROOOWWW!

HE SURE
DOES LIKE TO
TALK A LOT.

GAH!

WHY NOT?
BECAUSE YOU
LIED TO ME ABOUT
WHAT WAS DOWN
HERE?

I KNOW HOW
TO RECOGNIZE AN
ICHTHYOSAUR WHEN I SEE
IT. THERE'S OTHER DINOSAURS
DOWN HERE! THAT'S THE
SCENT DEVIL DINOSAUR
WAS FOLLOWING.



YOU
SHOULDN'T BE
HERE BECAUSE IT'S
DANGEROUS.

WHERE IS
YOUR DINOSAUR,
BY THE WAY?

OH, HE JUST
WENT AHEAD TO
SCOUT. HE'LL BE
HERE IN JUST A
MINUTE.

IT SEEMS
WE'VE BEEN
DELIVERED ANOTHER
BROTHER FOR THE
COMING WAR.

HOW
LOYAL IS
HE TO
YOU?

WE'VE SAVED
EACH OTHER'S LIVES,
LIKE, A DOZEN TIMES.
WE BASICALLY SHARE
A BRAIN. WHY?



TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT



ON SALE IN AUGUST!

